



# St. James News

CHRIST AT THE CENTER. TRUTH IN ALL THINGS

Volume 71 Issue 9

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December/January 2025

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## From The Desk Of Pastor Mark Loder

### December Spiritual Discipline: Meditation on Scripture

**“Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path” (Psalm 119:105). “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14).** We cannot know God apart from His Word. His Word governs all things and reveals all He wants us to know about Himself. God spoke. Creation came to be. All things were made through the Word, and apart from the Word was nothing made.

In time, the Word took on flesh. He became man. This is what we recall throughout the season of Advent. Our Immanuel has come. The King of Glory, the creator of all things, becomes one with those He created. He does this to redeem our flesh. He comes as a babe in a crib to die as a man on the cross to be raised from the crypt. This is the fullness of His grace and the truth He reveals to you. The Word has come to enlighten your eyes. He has come to give you the right to be born as children of God.

We speak of the “Word of God” in three different but interrelated ways. First, the Word of God is Jesus. This means that the other two ways we speak of the Word all point to Jesus. Second, the Word of God is the written Word (Holy Scripture). Third, the Word of God is the spoken Word.

If we want the true light to enlighten our eyes to who He is and what He has come to do, then we must be

receivers of the written and oral Word. It is through these that the Word made flesh makes His dwelling among us and brings us the benefits of His life, death, and resurrection. The pages of Holy Scripture are full of Christ. They are colored in the blood of Christ for all Scripture testifies of Him. If you desire to receive Christ, then receive His Word.

As we embark on this season of Advent and for us at Good Shepherd, a year of intentionally training ourselves through spiritual disciplines, let us be hearers of the Word. It is by the hearing of the Word that faith is formed, nourished, and strengthened.

### OUR DISCIPLINE FOR DECEMBER IS TO READ A MINIMUM OF ONE CHAPTER

**FROM THE BIBLE DAILY.** Options abound for how this may be done. You can read one chapter of Proverbs every day this month and complete one book. You could combine some shorter books together to get to 31 chapters. Freedom abounds. But let’s all continue in or begin the habit of daily meditation on Holy Scripture.

May you cultivate the habit of daily Scripture reading and be blessed to see Christ for you in the pages of Holy Writ.

”  
Spiritual disciplines  
are sacred  
practices that  
intentionally align  
us with God’s will.  
“

## January Spiritual Discipline: Praying the Psalms

How does one become a theologian? The answer is dependent on what the word “theology” means. Theology means the study of God. Everyone has some thoughts about God. Therefore, everyone is a theologian.

But we’ve got to dig a little deeper. The question isn’t precise enough. Everyone, even the pagan, is a theologian. How does one become a good theologian? That’s the question we are after. Being a good theologian doesn’t require years of seminary training or a PhD. Dr. Luther suggested that the following three things are required for the making of a theologian: oratio, tentatio, meditatio.

For our December spiritual discipline, we took up meditatio. Our focus was on meditation on the Holy Scriptures. Lord willing, if it wasn’t already, it is now your habit to minimally read one chapter of Scripture per day. Keep that going. We’ll add more to it in the coming months.

This month, we take up oratio or prayer. In January, we are going to intentionally cultivate or improve the habit of prayer in our lives. What do we pray? What did Jesus pray? For sure, we have the model prayer our Lord gave us, the Lord’s Prayer, but let us also consider that our Lord made use of the ancient prayer text of God’s people: the Psalms.

Luther writes concerning the Psalter: “The Psalter ought to be a precious and beloved book, if for no other reason than this: it promises Christ’s death and resurrection so clearly—and pictures his kingdom and the condition and nature of all Christendom—that it might well be called a little Bible. In it is comprehended most beautifully and briefly everything that is in the entire Bible.” LW 35:254 “Moreover the Psalter does more than this. It presents to us not the simple, ordinary speech of the saints, but the best of their language, that which they used when they talked with God himself in great earnestness and on the most important matters. Thus the Psalter lays before us not only their words instead of their deeds, but their very hearts and the inmost treasure of their souls, so we can look down to the foundation and source of their words and deeds. We can look into their hearts and see what kind of thoughts they had, how their hearts were disposed, and how they acted in all kinds of situations, in danger and in need.” (LW 35:254-255)

Think of how Jesus prays the Psalter! **“My God, my God, why have You forsaken Me?”** (Psalm 22:1). **“The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone.”** (Psalm 118:22). **“Into your hands**

**I commit my spirit”** (Psalm 31:5). In Matthew 26 we are told that our Lord and His disciples sang a hymn after their time in the upper room. Almost surely, they sang Psalm 113-118. The hallel (think hallelujah) psalms were traditionally sung at the celebration of the Passover.

We can take a cue from our Lord. Think on it: the Lord inspired men to write down His words in the Psalms that men might pray the Lord’s words back to Him. Then let us pray.

**YOUR SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE FOR JANUARY IS TO DAILY PRAY A PSALM.** If you are looking for suggestions, consider hallel Psalms (113-118) or the Psalms of Ascent (120-134) or the penitential psalms (6, 32, 38, 51, 102, 130, and 143). You can even pick one psalm and stick to it for the entire month. Whatever you deem fit. But let us pray the psalms and learn together what it is the Lord wants us to pray as we become better theologians through the little Bible that is the Psalter.

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## ✠ Bible Trivia ✠

See answers below

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1. Who told Joseph to marry Mary?
2. Which book traces the genealogy of Jesus back to Adam?
3. Which is the only gospel of the four to give an account of the birth of John the Baptist?
4. Which two gospels make no mention of the Virgin Birth?
5. What age of children did King Herod order to be killed when he realized the Magi had tricked him in his search for baby Jesus?

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**Answers:** 1. An angel (Matthew 1:20) 2. Luke chapter 3  
3. Luke chapter 1 4. Mark and John 5. 2 years and under (Matthew 2:16)



## Our Church Records

### Church Attendance

Sunday, November 2	112 & 165
Sunday, November 9	141 & 95
Sunday, November 16	80 & 172
Sunday, November 23	107 & 126
Sunday, November 30	71 & 86

### Communion Attendance

Sunday, November 2	162
Sunday, November 9	145
Sunday, November 16	137
Sunday, November 23	144
Sunday, November 30	91

### Funeral

**Dolores Tyson** on November 7, 2025. She was called to her eternal reason on November 1, 2025, at the age 98 years, 1 month, and 29 days.

**Colleen Gutzke** on November 12, 2025. She was called to her eternal reason on October 31, 2025, at the age 88 years, 5 months, and 18 days.

### Baptism

**Colleen Gutzke** on November 12, 2025. She was called to her eternal reason on October 31, 2025, at the age 88 years, 5 months, and 18 days.

**Colton Franz** son of Bryan and Christina Franz, on November 23, 2025, by Pastor Loder. His sponsors are Matthew Gruenhagen and Brandon Franz.



Hear the Good News of the Gospel on the Lutheran hour each Sunday at 9:00 am on KDUZ 1260 AM Radio.

During the month of December, you will hear the following topics:

December 7

#### **"Chosen for What?"**

God calls believers to trust and follow Jesus--chosen, but chosen for what? (Romans 15:7)

December 14

#### **"Pictures of Patience"**

Patience can be practiced, tested, strained, and lost. Christians are called to return the patience God in His mercy has shown us, in Christ. (James 5:7-8)

December 21

#### **"Everybody Is Somebody"**

God sends His people--the Church--to be His letters to the world, delivering His Word of promise. (Romans 1:7)

December 28

#### **"Get Ready for the Best"**

Christ will return--maybe this year, maybe even today! Pastor German Novelli helps us to prepare for the blessings and challenges of a new year. (Luke 12:36-37)

## **Voters Meeting**

Will be held Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup> following the 10:30 AM service. All are encouraged to attend.





*By Faith!*

December 14<sup>th</sup>  
9:30 Anniversary Worship Service  
11:30 Anniversary Celebration  
Reception



**December:** Matty Lanars (2), Mary Jo Painschab (2), Bernard Marketon (5), Keenan Zillmer (6), Tyler Miller (7), Ethan Peterson (7), Ashely Nowak (8), Cora Glessing (10), Mason Hendrickson (10), Barrett Kirchenwitz (10), Kathryn Lutter (11), Robin Painschab (11), Ruth Oestreich (12), Natalie Eckhoff (14), Lewis Hassa (14), Kurt Bobrowske (15), Ruth Latzig (16), Bonnie Kobow (18), Marie Longfors (19), Jesse Cardinal (20), Connie Gruenhagen (21), John Kothrade (23), Daniel Doster (26), David Doster (26), Alexander Ogle (27), Jody Strohschein (27), David Oestreich (30), Josiah Hagemann (31).

**January:** Dennis Klammer (2), Connie Zander (2), Nancy Diers (3), Wayne Koosman (5), Christine Hassa (7), Lois Strohschein (8), Mark Luchsinger (10), Nora Wurm (1), Aleah Lanars (11), Steven Comstock, Sr. (12), Luke Fleck (13), Tanner Koch (13), Keith Koosman (14), Rhonda Frey (15), Noreen Horsch (15), Donna Carlson (16), Wayne Diers (16), Steve Koosman (16), Bruce Bureau (19), Terry Thorson (19), Maggie Krause (20), Jessica Morrisette (20), Abby Niesen (20), Connie Koosman (22), Owen Davis (23), Julia Gummerus (23), Myra Laway (24), Abbie Bobrowske (25), Christine Cardinal (25), Jane Kothrade (25), Beth Koch (26), Ashley Gruenhagen (27), Jeffery Diers (28), Amiyah Love (28), Mike Thorson (29), Doris Schendel (30).



12/1 Benjamin & Christena Dickens  
 12/13 Jim & Janet Koch  
 12/20 Dan & Seena Glessing  
 12/27 DuWayne & Lisa Kotila  
 12/30 Berry & Teresa Schmieg  
 1/27 Wayne & Connie Koosman

Marge opened our meeting with devotions on Prayer. We each wrote down our prayer concerns and made a prayer chain of them. Barb led the evening's topic with a skit on prayer and remembering to always give thanks to Jesus. We were all given a special "Contem'plate" and bookmark to remind us to count and share our blessings. Oh give thank to the Lord for He is good, for His steadfast loves forever!

The business meeting followed, reports read and accepted. Viann reported on the Fall dinner, 340 meals were served with a \$1718 profit. 10% of this will go the Howard Lake Fire Department and Love Inc. and our mission gifts to St. James staff at Christmas, Lutheran Braille Translators, Lutheran Bible Translators, Wright County Community Action and Concordia Theological Seminary Food Coop. A Thank offering was collected which will go to St. James Benevolence Fund and Wright County Community Action.

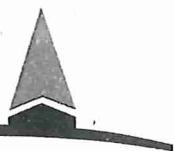
Bonnie reported on the Crow River Conference in Green Isle. An unopposed election ballot was approved with President Marge Stueven, Treasurer Cathy Birkholz, Executive Board Barb Schmieg and Lorie Gruenhagen being elected.

We joined in singing the birthday song for November & December birthdays and table prayer before enjoying lunch and fellowship.

Our Christmas Party was Monday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 5 PM with a potluck supper. We would love to have you join us!!



# **Monthly Financial Report**



St. James Lutheran Church  
Monthly Financial Summary  
October 2025

	Year to Date	
	Actual	Budget
<b>Receipts</b>		
Offerings & Donations	199,327	153,550
Tuition & Other Receipts	74,943	84,099
Mission Receipts	2,828	3,625
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>277,098</b>	<b>241,274</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Salaries-Church & School	148,534	152,917
Benefits/Payroll/Taxes/Mileage	35,425	41,657
Administration & Program Expenses	26,750	18,846
Utilities/Maintenance & Repair	47,995	52,290
Mission Disbursements	1000	437
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>259,704</b>	<b>177,432</b>
<b>Net Receipts/Expenses</b>	<b>17,394</b>	<b>(24,874)</b>

## **Come** to the Sunday School **Christmas Program**

*Sunday, December 21 at the  
10:30 AM Worship Service*



*Hear the **Christmas Story** as  
told by the children with  
**Carols, Scripture and  
Recitations***

## **Advent and Christmas at St. James Howard Lake**

**Mid-Week Evening Prayer**  
**12/3, 12/10, 12/17**  
**7 pm**

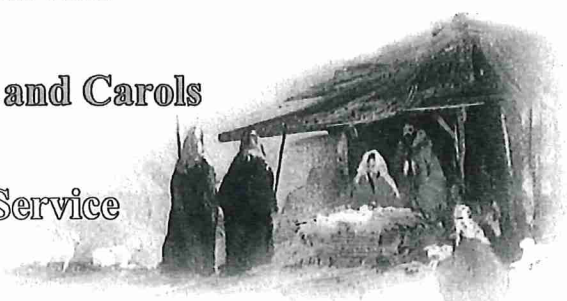
**Christmas Eve Divine Service**  
**4:15 pm**

**Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols**  
**7 pm**

**Christmas Day Divine Service**  
**9 am**

**Sunday School Program**  
**12/21 - 10:30 am**

**School Program**  
**12/18 - 6:30 pm**  
**12/19 - 10 am**



Dear saints of St. James,

As your pastor, I write with deep joy and thanksgiving for the faith-filled response you have shown toward the stewardship needs of our congregation. In a time when many grow weary or anxious about earthly matters, your generous giving, faithful service, and steadfast prayers have borne witness to the living faith that Christ has worked in your hearts. Truly, as the Apostle Paul wrote, "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now" (Philippians 1:3-5).

Your response to the ministry needs of our congregation is more than financial—it is spiritual. It's an act of thanksgiving to the Lord who first gave us all things. Every gift, every hour of service, every prayer offered for the work of Christ's Church reflects your trust in the promise of our Savior: "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you" (Matthew 6:33).

We give thanks this season not only for daily bread, but for the Bread of Life—Christ Himself—who feeds and sustains His Church through Word and Sacrament. Through Him, we have forgiveness, life, and salvation. He is our greatest treasure. As the Apostle reminds us, "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich" (2 Corinthians 8:9). What joy and gratitude overflow from hearts that know such mercy!

I encourage you, dear friends, to continue in this grace of giving and service. Stewardship is not a task completed once, but a daily expression of our faith in Christ and love for one another. As Paul exhorted the believers in Galatia, "Let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith" (Galatians 6:9-10).

Let us, then, continue joyfully in the work set before us: worshipping faithfully, teaching God's Word diligently, caring for one another, and supporting the proclamation of the Gospel in our community and beyond. Every good work we do is itself a gift from the Holy Spirit, who enables and strengthens us to live as God's redeemed people.

In this season of Advent, may we remember that "every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights" (James 1:17). Our homes, our health, our congregation, and the very faith in our hearts are all blessings of His grace. Let us give thanks, not only with our lips, but with our lives—lives devoted to His service, reflecting His love to others.

May the Lord of the Church continue to bless you and keep you, strengthen your faith, and fill your hearts with the joy of thanksgiving in Christ Jesus.

God's peace,

Pastor

"Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever." (Psalm 136:1)

*Give Thanks*  
to the Lord,  
for He is good.  
*His Love* endures  
forever.  
(Psalm 136:1)



### January Events

**5 School Resumes**  
**19 No Bussing**  
**25 National Lutheran Schools**  
**Week Begins**



## A Message from Vicar Hallock

**“Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary and was made man.”** These words from the Nicene Creed describe the purpose of the incarnation. Specifically, the incarnation is for us and our salvation from the sin that has enslaved us and separated us from God. We have been discussing the person of Jesus Christ for the last few newsletters. We contemplated at length how we rightly distinguish the natures and how they work together in communion with one another for our salvation. Now we will discuss the works that the person of Jesus does to accomplish salvation. This newsletter will explore what Scripture reveals about Christ’s works and why it matters for us and our salvation.

Before I explain the works of Jesus, it is important to note that when Jesus does his works he does them using both natures. There’s never a time when one of his natures simply shuts off. Persons act according to nature. Since Christ has two natures, he acts according to both. For example, when Scripture says **“The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin”** (1 John 1:7), he does this using both natures. Here you see that his human blood becomes the means by which God divinely forgives our sins. Another example that Scripture gives is, **“The bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world”** (John 6:51). You will notice that Jesus says his flesh is life-giving. Again, both natures are at work, his human flesh is life-giving. This is important because to deny this reality is to deny the purpose of the incarnation and the incarnation itself.

The works that Jesus does, as the incarnate God, for our salvation can be grouped under three offices that he exercises: prophet, priest, and king. Christ is a prophet because he was sent to deliver God’s revelation of salvation **“God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds”** (Hebrews 1:1-2). Christ is a priest because he has reconciled the world to God through his sacrifice **“God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself.”** (2 Corinthians 5:19). And finally, Christ is a king because he governs and rules over all things **“And**

**He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end”** (Luke 1:33).

Christ exercises these offices in two states: his state of humiliation and state of exaltation. The state of humiliation is how he exercised these offices while he was on earth, while the state of exaltation is how he performed these offices after the ascension. He does the same works and exercises the same offices in both states.

So how does he exercise his offices in both states? In the prophetic office, in his state of humiliation, he taught the people immediately face-to-face (see Hebrews 1:1). In his state of exaltation, he teaches through the holy Ministry which is tasked with preaching the same Gospel **“As the Father has sent Me, I also send you”** (John 20:21). In this state, he works through means, in this case, the holy Ministry to deliver the proclamation of the Gospel **“If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God.”** (1 Peter 4:11). In the priestly office, in his state of humiliation, he lived a holy life and reconciled the world to God through the shedding of his blood (see 2 Corinthians 5:19 above). As the priest, he takes our place and is crucified for the sins of the world. Unlike the priests of old, he does not offer up continual sacrifices but offered himself once and this sacrifice applies for all time. In his state of exaltation, he intercedes for us and serves as our mediator **“We have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous”** (1 John 2:1). In his kingly office, he exercises his rule in both states and is present everywhere **“You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet”** (Psalms 8:6). Here his kingly rule can be broken down into three kingdoms: the Kingdom of Power, where he rules over all people even unbelievers; the

Kingdom of Grace, where he rules over those who have heard the Gospel through the Word and are part of the Church; and the Kingdom of Glory, which is the Kingdom of Grace extended into eternity where all believers will dwell with him.

Why does any of this matter? Because these are the works Christ does to save us from our sins. Without these works, his incarnation would have no purpose. All these works Jesus did so that you may be reconciled to God. He does this work so that you would be forgiven of all the sins that plague you. No longer do you live bound to your sin and guilt, but Christ has freed you through his marvelous works as prophet, priest, and king **“for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost”** (Luke 19:10).

# School NEWS

Here's just a sample of what has been happening in the classrooms of St. James Lutheran School during November.



The Kindergarten class has handed out colorful, heartfelt cards to various teachers and staff showing their gratitude for what those individuals do as part of their calling here at St.

James.

If you get a chance to see the large turkey on one of the preschool doors, you can read notes of gratitude by both preschoolers and their chapel buddies from grades seven and eight.

Second graders wrote and performed a couple of plays recently. One was about a magic bowl that never ran out of porridge. The other was about turkeys trying to escape from their farm.

Fourth graders have collected seeds before winter sets in, to be planted in the spring. Some of them also made cookies that looked like turkeys for the November community meal. They hope to continue making desserts for upcoming community meals.

As part of their English classes the upper graders were to write about someone for whom they were thankful. They have also been keeping a record of what they are reading for literature class on a site called Biblionasium. They can recommend books to classmates on this site, as well.

The Advanced Band has been preparing to accompany hymns for the Thanksgiving services and the Beginner Band is excited that their practice is paying off and the music they create

together truly sounds like Beethoven's "Ode To Joy".

The 5<sup>th</sup> season have far and



and 6<sup>th</sup> grade boys basketball team is flying by. They played 4 games so will have three more home games in December, so come and cheer them on if you are able.

The staff is grateful for the support and care shown by our awesome families through words of encouragement, willingness to pitch in with projects, providing food during parent teacher conferences and volunteering in so many ways.

We are also grateful for the many families, alumni, and friends who have generously given to this year's Celebrate St. James Drive. The total at this time is \$5223.00 to help with needs at the school.

## December Events

- Dec. 7 10:30 Pre-School Choir
- Dec. 14 9:30 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration for St. James K-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir Sings
- Dec. 15 4 PM Home BB Game
- Dec. 18 6:30 Pm Christmas Program by Pre-School -8<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Dec. 19 10:00 PM Christmas Program by Pre-School -8<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Dec. 20 Christmas Break Begins
- Dec. 21 10:30 Sunday School Program







### INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

- + Baseball is the most popular sport in the Dominican Republic.
- + Armed forces and national police members are not allowed to vote..
- + The Dominican Republic is the only country worldwide to have a Bible in its flag.
- + Centuries ago, pirates rested and restocked in the Dominican Republic.
- + Samana Bay ia home to a whale watch sanctuary from January to March.
- + Columbus arrived to Santo Domingo on his first voyage that took place in 1492.
- + Founded in 1492, Santo Domingo is the oldest colonial settlement in the Americas.
- + The principle export crops are tobacco, coffee, and sugar.

## Have a Blessed Thanksgiving!

We pray that you have a blessed Thanksgiving celebration. On this day we take time out of our busy schedules to give thanks to God for all of his blessings. At the same time let us remember that every day of our lives is a day of Thanksgiving.

The Dominican Republic does not celebrate this holiday. The missionary team here in the Dominican Republic however is busy planning our own Thanksgiving day celebration. On this day we cancel our scheduled activities to worship and share a fellowship meal..

Hurricane Melissa did not affect the Dominican Republic greatly. We had a lot of rain but the flooding was not excessive. Our Cuban brethren however were not as fortunate; many homes and buildings were destroyed. Accordingly the members of the Dominican church collected food and medicines. These donations were taken to Cuba via several suitcases carried by the wife of one of the Cuban seminarians who went to visit her family in Cuba.

The local churches are now rehearsing for the Christmas concert night that will take place on the 12<sup>th</sup> of December. Our local church, Cordero de Dios, has rehearsals every Sunday after the worship service. All of the members are invited to participate. We take this opportunity to thank missionary Abigail Young for directing our Christmas choir.

We are happy to welcome our new seminarian, Luis Mendez, to the Dominican Republic. Luis comes to us from Cuba with his wife and daughter. The government of Cuba is atheistic and has no tolerance for the Christian religion. Nonetheless Luis and other Cuban national pastors preach the Gospel in spite of the persecution they experience. Remember Luis in your prayers as he prepares for the pastorate.



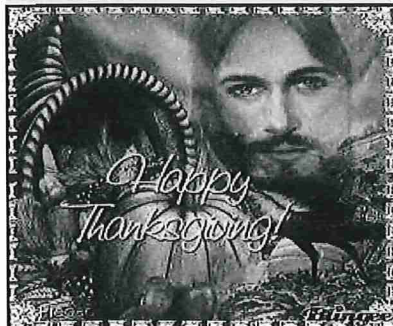
Dr. Gerson Linden giving his presentation on the gospel of John at the regional study conference. We thank Dr. Linden for a fantastic presentation.





#### We Pray For

- + The thanksgiving holiday and those who travel during this time.
  - + Our new vicar, Gavin Johnson.
  - + Our daughter Ana as she undergoes her medical tests.
  - + the people of Cuba who were affected by hurricane Melissa.
  - + Those Christians who suffer persecution.
- We Give Thanks For
- + The missionary study conference.
  - + Our mission donors who make our mission possible.
  - + The seminarians who are preparing for the Holy ministry



## Personal Notes

Our daughter Ana, who lives in Detroit has been diagnosed with mediastinal masses in her lungs. She now has to go to a specialist to diagnose her situation and recommend treatment. Please remember Ana in your prayers as she undergoes the medical examinations.

We thank God for the mission in Latin America. Your support provides Biblical training for national pastors, deacons, and deaconesses. Prayerfully consider how the Lord may be leading you to support this vital mission. The Lord provides the funding for his mission efforts through the donations of His local churches and its individual members. Through your financial donations national pastors and deaconesses will be formed and mentored that they may spread the Gospel throughout Latin America. Together we partner with God to take the Gospel to the far ends of the earth. We thank you for supporting the mission in Latin America. God's richest blessings! Have a blessed summer!!



*I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. (Philippians 1:3)*

**Soli Deo Gloria**  
*Daniel and Kathy*



The missionaries, national pastors, and seminarians who participated in the regional study conference.

To support our work financially, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
P.O. Box 790089  
St. Louis, MO 63179-0089 Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Mark checks "Support of Daniel Conrad."

Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on our online giving page at [www.lcms.org/conrad](http://www.lcms.org/conrad) or call 888-930-4438 to speak with one of our Donor Care representatives.

You may also donate through Mission Central:  
<https://missioncentral.us/conrad/>

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



# December



# 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 7:00 Women's Bible Study	3 8:20 Chapel 10:00 Bible Study 5:30 Catechesis 7:00 Advent Evening Prayer	4	5	6
7 Second Sunday in Advent 8:00 Divine Service 9:15 Bible Study/Catechesis/SS 10:30 Divine Service	8 1:00 Naomi Guild	9 7:00 Women's Bible Study	10 8:20 Chapel 10:00 Bible Study 5:30 Catechesis 7:00 Advent Evening Prayer	11 1:30 Sarah Bible Study 5:00 Community Meal	12	13
14 Third Sunday in Advent 9:30 150 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service 11:15 150 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reception	15	16 7:00 Women's Bible Study	17 8:20 Chapel 10:00 Bible Study 5:30 Catechesis 7:00 Advent Evening Prayer	18	19	20
21 Fourth Sunday in Advent 8:00 Divine Service 9:15 Bible Study/Catechesis/SS 10:30 Divine Service	22 6:00 SS Teacher Session	23 7:00 Women's Bible Study	24 4:15 Christmas Eve Divine Service 7:00 Lessons and Carols	25 9:00 Nativity of Our Lord Divine Service	26 Church Office Closed	27 9:00-12:00 Private Confession/Absolution
28 First Sunday after Christmas 8:00 Divine Service 9:15 Bible Study/Catechesis/SS 10:30 Divine Service	29	30 7:00 Women's Bible Study	31	Church Office Closed		

# January



# 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 9:30 HL Good Sam. 1:30 The Lodge  Church Office Closed	2	3
4 Second Sunday after Christmas 8:00 Divine Service 9:15 Bible Study/Catechesis/SS 10:30 Divine Service	5 1:00 Naomi Guild 7:00 LWML	6	7 8:20 Chapel 10:00 Bible Study 5:30 Catechesis 7:00 Women's Bible Study	8 10:30 Cokato Care Center 5:00 Community Meal	9	10 7:30 Irons Sharpening Irons Breakfast 9:00 Elders Meeting
11 First Sunday after the Epiphany 8:00 Divine Service 9:15 Bible Study/Catechesis/SS 10:30 Divine Service	12	13	14 8:20 Chapel 10:00 Bible Study 5:30 Catechesis 7:00 Women's Bible Study	15 9:30 HL Good Sam. 1:30 The Lodge	16	17
18 Second Sunday after the Epiphany 8:00 Divine Service 9:15 Bible Study/Catechesis/SS 10:30 Divine Service	19 7:00 School Board	20 7:00 Leadership Council	21 8:20 Chapel 10:00 Bible Study 5:30 Catechesis 7:00 Women's Bible Study	22 10:30 Cokato Care Center	23	24 9-12:00 Private Confession/ Absolution
25 Third Sunday after the Epiphany 8:00 Divine Service 9:15 Bible Study/Catechesis/SS 10:30 Divine Service Voters Meeting Following 10:30 Service	26	27	28	29	30	31



# WORSHIP SERVICE INFORMATION – DECEMBER 2025

**Elders:** 8:00 AM Harold Blanchette and Bill Wickesberg  
10:30 AM Dean Koosman and Joe Pehl

**Ushers:** 8:00 AM Jack George and Paul Lindahl  
10:30 AM Michael Thorson

**Altar Guild:** Marge Stueven and Sonia Lee

**Video Camera:** Jeff Schmieg

## Sunday, December 7, 2025

**Color:** Blue  
**Liturgy:** Pg. 203  
**Lessons:** Song of Solomon 2:8-14, Rom. 15:4-13, Luke 21:25-36  
**Hymns:** 353, 336, 337  
**Communion Hymns:** 333, 355, 508  
**Organist:** Nancy Butterfass  
**Choir:** 8:00 Worship Choir  
10:30 PreK

## Mid-Week, December 10, 2025

**Color:** Blue  
**Liturgy:** Pg. 243  
**Hymns:** 332, 402, 546  
**Organist:** Nancy Butterfass

## Sunday, December 14, 2025

**Color:** Blue  
**Liturgy:** Pg. 184  
**Lessons:** Is. 40:1-8 (9-11), 1 Cor. 4:1-5, Matt. 11:2-10 (11)  
**Hymns:** 347, 511, 353  
**Communion Hymns:** 645, 602, 636  
**Organist:** Molly Loder  
**Choir:** 9:30 5-8 and Worship

## Mid-Week, December 17, 2025

**Color:** Blue  
**Liturgy:** Pg. 243  
**Hymns:** 346, 348, 917  
**Organist:** Molly Loder

## Sunday, December 21, 2025

**Color:** Blue  
**Liturgy:** Pg. 203  
**Lessons:** Deut. 18:15-19, Phil. 4:4-7, John 1:19-28  
**Hymns:** 347, 357, 343  
**Communion Hymns:** 346, 332, 350  
**Organist:** Nancy Butterfass  
**Choir:** 10:30 Sunday School Program

## Christmas Eve, December 24, 2025

**Color:** White  
**Liturgy:** 4:15 Pg. 203  
**Lessons:** Is. 7:10-14, 1 John 4:7-16, Matt. 1:18-25  
**Hymns:** 379, 359, 363  
**Communion Hymns:** 368, 361, 370, 358  
**Organist:** Nancy Butterfass  
**Choir:** Worship Choir

## Christmas Eve, December 24, 2025

**Color:** White  
**Liturgy:** 7:00 Printed with Communion  
**Organist:** Molly Loder

## Christmas Day, December 25, 2025

**Color:** White  
**Liturgy:** 9:00 Pg. 203  
**Lessons:** Ex. 40:17-21, Titus 3:4-7, John 1:1-14  
**Hymns:** 375, 386, 387  
**Communion Hymns:** 380, 374, 376  
**Organist:** Nancy Butterfass  
**Choir:** Worship Choir

## Sunday, December 28, 2025

**Color:** Red  
**Liturgy:** Pg. 184  
**Lessons:** Jer. 31:15-17, Rev. 14:1-5, Matt. 2:13-18  
**Hymns:** 675, 969 (not in Hymnal), 666  
**Communion Hymns:** 621, 372, 371  
**Organist:** Molly Loder

**St. James**  
**Community**  
**MEAL**

**DECEMBER 11th - 5:30 PM**

**MENU:**  
HAM, MASHED POTATOES, GRAVY,  
GREEN BEANS, ROLLS, DESSERTS

Come enjoy some good food and conversation!  
St. James Lutheran School - Fellowship Hall  
1000 6th Ave - Howard Lake, MN

**FREEWILL DONATIONS**  
**ACCEPTED**

*Christmas Blessings To:*

**St. James Lutheran Church and School**  
1000 Seventh Avenue - PO Box 680  
Howard Lake, MN 55349

